

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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USA Patent Application
Heinz-Günther Wilhelm
DISPLAY DEVICE

Priority: German Patent Application
100 10 812.1 filed March 8, 2000

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this application simultaneously with filing as
follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT

UNNUMBERED PAGE 12

Line 1 change "The...a" to --A--

Lines 16-17, delete the paragraph spacing

Line 18 delete "the ... that"

Last Line on page, delete "(Figure 2)"

IN THE SPECIFICATION

PAGE 1

Line 1, delete "Description"

Line 5, before this line, after the title, insert:

--FIELD AND BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

PAGE 2

Line 14, before this line insert:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

PAGE 7

Line 13, before this line insert:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Line 31, before this line insert:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

IN THE CLAIMS

(APPLICATION PAGES 11-14)

Before claim 1, please change section heading "Patent claims" to

--I CLAIM:--

Please cancel claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the
subject matter therein and substitute claims 20-38 therefor:

• * *

--20. A display device (1), in particular in a vehicle, having a housing (3) on a front side of which facing a viewer a liquid crystal cell (2) is mounted, and a printed circuit board (4) which is arranged on a rear of the housing (3) for making electrical contact with the liquid crystal cell (2), a contacting element (8) which is clamped against the liquid crystal cell (2), is approximately plate-shaped and is guided at its larger sides (13, 14) in the housing (3) for making electrical connection with the printed circuit board (4) and liquid crystal cell (2) being arranged between the printed circuit board (4) and a contacting region (7) of the liquid crystal cell (2) which is arranged outside a display region (6) of the liquid crystal cell (2), wherein the housing (3) is provided with a first hook element (9), as a mating holding element for the clamped contacting element (8), which engages over the liquid crystal cell (2) in the contacting region (7), and with a second hook element (10) which engages over the liquid crystal cell (2) in a region which lies opposite the contacting region (7) and is arranged outside the display region (6) of the liquid crystal cell (2), so as to form a single component.

21. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the first hook element (9) is rigidly connected to a side wall (17) of the housing (3).

22. The display device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the side wall (17) is reinforced by a web (11).

23. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the first hook element (9) engages over the contacting region (7) approximately over its entire length.

24. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the second hook element (10) is connected to the housing (3) so that it is elastic approximately in a direction of a display plane of the liquid crystal cell (2).

25. The display device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the second hook element (10) is arranged on an elastic side wall (15) of the housing (3).

26. The display device as claimed in claim 25, wherein the housing (3) has two slots (16) which are arranged in the same plane, approximately perpendicular with respect to the display plane of the liquid crystal side (2), and form the elastic side wall (15).

27. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the housing (3) has an external side wall (17) and an internal side wall (18) which is approximately parallel to the latter and between said walls (17, 18) the contacting element (8) is guided.

28. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein a supporting element (19) which is clamped between the liquid crystal cell (2) and the printed circuit board (4) is arranged on a side of the housing (3) lying opposite the contacting element (8).

29. The display device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the supporting element (19) and the contacting element (8) have approximately the same elastic properties.

30. The display device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the supporting element (19) is guided in the housing (3) between an external side wall (15) and an internal side wall (20), lying opposite the latter, of the housing (3).

31. The display device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the supporting element (19) is electrically conductive.

32. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the housing (3) has webs (21) which lie opposite each other and guide the liquid crystal cell (2) on sides over which said hook element (9, 10) does not engage.

33. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the contacting element (8) and/or a supporting element (19) is conductive rubber.

34. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the housing (3) is a plastic injection molded component.

35. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the housing (3) is in two parts, a first housing part (22) having external housing walls and a second housing part (23) which is insertable into the first housing part (22) having internal housing walls.

36. The display device as claimed in claim 20, wherein, in a vicinity of the contact element (8) and/or of a supporting element (19), the distance between an inner housing wall and an outer housing wall corresponds approximately to the thickness of the contacting element (8) and/or of the supporting element (19).

37. The display device as claimed in claim 35, wherein the first housing part (22) and the second housing part (23) are connected to one another so as to form a single component.

38. The display device as claimed in claim 37, wherein the first housing part (22) and the second housing part (23) are connected to a film (24).--

R E M A R K S

This amendment is being made simultaneously with filing this application.

The abstract, specification and claims have been amended in accordance with USA practice under 35 USC 112.

Original claims 1-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter and claims 20-38 are substituted therefor.

No multiple-dependent form claim fees apply in this application.

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the claim filing fee and prior to an action on the merits, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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